

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. Johnny Anderson
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Steven Eliason
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Members Absent:

Rep. Bill Wright, House Chair
Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Rep. Poulson and Rep. Wright were excused from the meeting. Chair Stephenson requested Rep. Christensen to be acting House Chair in Rep. Wright's absence.

Chair Stephenson asked committee members to introduce themselves and the districts they represent. He also recognized and expressed appreciation for Ms. Glenda Whitney, Committee Secretary, and noted that she will be leaving the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel after 19 years of service to the Legislature. Chair Stephenson also recognized Sen. Osmond as a new senator.

MOTION: Rep. Moss moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Osmond, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Peterson, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

Ms. Stallings gave an overview of the Open and Public Meetings Act. Chair Stephenson clarified some of the issues in relation to the act.

2. Education Bills Passed in the 2011 General Session

Ms. Steffen distributed the handout, "2011 General Session Education Bills." Ms. Steffen, Ms. Stallings, and Ms. Nicholson reviewed the policy changes made by education bills passed in the 2011 General Session.

Dr. Larry K. Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, distributed a report, "Public Education Summary, 2011 General Session of the Utah Legislature," which was prepared by the Utah State Office of

Education (USOE) for local education agencies. Supt. Shumway; Dr. Martell Menlove, Deputy Superintendent, USOE; and Mr. David L. Thomas, Utah State Board of Education (USBE), discussed USBE's actions to implement legislation enacted in the 2011 General Session.

Supt. Shumway explained USBE's decision to allow a school district or charter school to determine how to spend its allocation of money for the K-3 Reading Improvement and Early Intervention programs. USBE has issued requests for proposals for technology to implement these programs. A school district or charter school may elect to purchase technology offered through the request for proposals process.

Mr. Thomas noted that USBE's decision on whether or not to set aside a certain amount of money for technology was a controversial and difficult one. By a close vote, the USBE decided to support local control of how appropriated funds should be utilized.

Dr. Menlove indicated that USBE will need to enact or modify up to 30 rules to implement the legislation enacted in the 2011 General Session. USBE initiated the rulemaking process to implement legislation, beginning with its April meeting.

Chair Stephenson distributed "Governor's Education Excellence Commission, Recommendations for the Utah Legislature," which urges the Legislature to: 1) restore the signing bonus for math, science, and special education teachers; and 2) restore the funding model previously employed for high school students who attend the Utah College of Applied Technology. Supt. Shumway explained that a funding change enacted in the 2011 General Session eliminates an incentive for school districts to partner with the Utah College of Applied Technology in providing career and technical education to high school students.

3. Recidivism Reduction Plan and Sunset Review

Mr. Craig Burr, Director, Division of Programming, Utah Department of Corrections (UDC), reported to the Committee on a one-year-old recidivism reduction plan that the UDC has developed and implements jointly with USBE and the Utah State Board of Regents (USBR). Mr. Burr addressed the educational opportunities for correctional offenders, paired with applicable work experience and work opportunities upon release.

Mr. Burr proposed two recommendations to assist with UDC's recidivism reduction plan: 1) a single reporting system enacted; and 2) the continuing collaboration of nine different state agencies.

Due to a lack of time, Chair Stephenson indicated that the Committee will consider reauthorization of the statute on corrections education and recidivism reduction at a future meeting.

4. Interim Studies

Chair Stephenson requested committee members to provide to committee staff their recommendations for interim studies from the items listed in "2011 Master Study Resolution Items Assigned to Education Interim Committee," which was provided to the Committee in the mailing packet. The chairs, in setting agendas for the remaining meetings, will take those recommendations into consideration.

Ms. Steffen reviewed the items listed in the Master Study Resolution assigned to the Committee. She also highlighted two topics the Committee is required to study as provided by statute: 1) the Statewide Online Education program; and 2) educator evaluation.

Chair Stephenson excused himself from the meeting and requested acting Chair Christensen to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

At Rep. Arent's request, Supt. Shumway offered input on study items the USOE would consider valuable. He noted that, although issues relative to curriculum are better addressed by USBE, legislative input is appreciated. The USOE noted appreciation for direction in the following areas: 1) financial literacy; 2) civics education; and 3) the International Baccalaureate program.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

Acting Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.